

\$25 in Prizes.

Address all letters on this subject to Margaret Hubbard Ayer, Evening World.



BY MARGARET HUBBARD AYER

Popularity Leads to Proposals.

Dear Miss Ayer: I do not approve of a woman proposing to a man except under extraordinary circumstances—not even in leap year, that chance that comes to her once in four years. Still, I think she can without sacrificing her maidenly dignity assist a man to propose by the use of a little tact. For instance, she might give him to understand that she was very popular with the other boys, and fearing that one of them will pick up his valuable prize he will generally ask her to be his wife. So, girls, if you want him to propose, give him the impression that your admirers are legion, for in love, as in business, nothing succeeds like success. A man is more anxious to marry the girl that other men seem to want than the one whom no one seems to care for; therefore, popularity leads to proposals.

Mrs. J. J. MACDONALD.

A Man's Idea of a Proposal.

Dear Miss Ayer: I received a girl of even temper, sympathetic, but not emotional. Observe well her demeanor toward her mother, and select for a wife the girl who assists in some degree in the household duties. Avoid the girl who takes hours to dress, one who talks about her clothes or her friends' clothes to you. Sentimental nonsense has no place in a proposal of marriage. Say to the lady simply that your feelings for her are such as prompt you to offer your name and your honor; that upon her your mind and heart agree; that your worldly affairs permit of your taking a wife, you believe, and that if she finds it within her inclination to consider favorably your proposal you will at once see her parents and lay before them the necessary material details.

FERGUS MACIVOR.

Disapproval and Advice.

Dear Miss Ayer: My letter perhaps does not seem in accordance with your questions. Nevertheless my advice to all women is this: Let the man do the proposing always and never under any circumstances lower your dignity by asking a man to marry you. Girls, do not let your husbands have the satisfaction of throwing in your face "You asked me to marry you." How cheap a woman would feel if, after asking the question, he should refuse to do so. If a man wants to marry a girl he will ask

The Home Dressmaker

BY MME. JUDICE

If you wish advice concerning new gowns or the making-over of old ones, if you wish advice concerning home dressmaking, write to "Mme. Judice, Evening World, Pulitzer Building, New York City," and she will give it to you in this column.

Lavender Crepe de Chine.

Dear Mme. Judice: I can make a pretty lavender crepe de Chine dress so it can be used for afternoon or evening. I have some handsome lace. Could it be used for the yoke? I have three yards of lace for trimming. I have a 38-inch bust and am rather short and stout.

Miss J. N. D. The illustration designed for Mme. J. will also be dainty and pretty in lavender crepe de Chine, and cream lace, and the trimming idea is newer than the lace yoke effect. I would suggest that you omit the hip yoke on the skirt, as it will have a tendency to shorten your appearance. Carry the box plaits to the belt line—it will be equally pretty.

Black Gown for Wedding.

Dear Mme. Judice: Is it correct to wear a black gown to a wedding? May the collars and cuffs usually worn by a widow be used with a black and white or a gray gown? How can I remove a stain from a piece of white lace? I don't know what kind of stain it is.

Mrs. G. W. G. A black gown is correct anywhere if the material and making are suited to the occasion. The collars and cuffs usually worn by a widow are not intended to be worn except on a strictly mourning gown—and of course only all black. Try lemon juice and plenty of sunshine on your white lace, as this treatment is almost always efficacious for stains of any kind, and at least will not harm the white lace.

To Remodel a Newmarket.

Dear Mme. Judice: I HAVE a fine seal-plush newmarket, which is too small for me now, as I got it some years ago. It would cost \$10 or \$12 to have it made over into a coat or jacket. Would it pay for the outlay? I am 5 feet 4 inches tall, weight 220 pounds, bust 56 inches, waist 41 inches, hips 50 inches. I have about seven yards of black Persian lamb trimming.

L. Dobbs Perry. From your description of your old newmarket coat I should think it would pay you to remodel it into one you could get some service out of, for as it

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C. F. MEVOY.

A Sherlock Holmes Romance, by

A. Conan Doyle.

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SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS. Mary Morstan, whose father, Capt. Morstan, died four years before, learns through Thaddeus Sholto that the latter had been in India and had been in the house where the treasure chest was hidden. Thaddeus Sholto, who was the brother of the late Capt. Morstan, was the one who had been in the house where the treasure chest was hidden. Thaddeus Sholto, who was the brother of the late Capt. Morstan, was the one who had been in the house where the treasure chest was hidden.

CHAPTER II. On the Trail.

SOON after this discovery the police arrived. Thaddeus Sholto and all the servants were put under arrest. Thaddeus, the police said, was the last person seen with Bartholomew and had admitted that there had been a quarrel. The police had brought a cab with them, and in this I escorted Miss Morstan back to her home. After the evening, so sorely had she been tried by the adventures of the night. She has told me since that she thought me cold and distant upon that journey. She little guessed the struggle within my breast, or the effort of self-restraint which held me back.

My sympathies and my love went out to her. I felt that years of the conventionalities of life could not teach me to know her sweet, brave nature as had this one day of strange experiences. Yet there were two thoughts which sealed the words of affection upon my lips. She was weak and helpless, shaken in mind and nerve. It was to take her at a disadvantage to outstrip love upon her at such a time. Worse still, she was rich. If Holmes's researches were successful she would be an heiress.

Was it fair, was it honorable, that a half-pay surgeon should take such advantage of an intimacy which ought to have brought about a marriage? Might he not upon me as a mere vulgar fortune-seeker? I could not bear the risk that such a thought should cross my mind. This Indian treasure intervened like an impassable barrier between us.

Then I went to a dog fancier whose address had been given me by Holmes and hired an ugly-looking dog named Toby. I took the dog back to Norwood, where we were met by Holmes. In my absence he had been investigating with the result that he had deduced the following theory: The wooden-legged man had waited below the window while his barefooted accomplice had climbed the water pipe to the roof, and the murderer had lowered a rope by which the wooden-legged man had reached the room. Together they had lowered the treasure chest and made off.

Under the window Holmes had found a little gross bag containing a half dozen more thorns of the sort used in killing Bartholomew Sholto. The dog quickly caught the scent of creosote and we followed him as he trailed the barefooted murderer and his accomplice. At a village on the Thames the trail ceased. On inquiry we learned that a wooden-legged man (who may or may not have been alone) had arrived at midnight, chartered a launch called the Aurora, from a boatman named Mordecai Smith and had gone down the river.

As we drove back to Baker street Holmes gave me his ideas on the cause of the murder.

"It is all patent and above-board,"

he said.

"What is it?"

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